



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural Statistics
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 24

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Excellent planting conditions existed during the early portion of the week, according to Indiana Agricultural Statistics. Corn planting was in full swing and many farmers were also planting soybeans. Much needed precipitation arrived during the week with some central areas receiving heavy rains causing ponding in some fields. Cold temperatures during the weekend is not expected to cause major damage to the early emerged corn plants. Corn planting is 6 days ahead of the average pace and only about a day behind the record pace established last year.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 4.2 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Thirty-six percent of the intended **corn** acreage is planted compared with 38 percent last year and 19 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 33 percent of the intended corn acreage is planted in the north, 45 percent in the central region and 26 percent in the south. Several of the early planted corn fields have now emerged. Seven percent of the intended **soybean** acreage is planted compared with 7 percent last year and 3 percent for the 5-year average.

Sixty-three percent of the winter wheat acreage is **jointed** compared with 66 percent last year and 68 percent for the 5-year average. One percent of the winter wheat acreage is **headed**, on par with both last year and the average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 72 percent good to excellent compared with 86 percent last year at this time.

Major activities during the week were tillage of soils, hauling grain to market, spreading fertilizer spraying chemicals, preparing equipment, hauling manure and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 10 percent excellent, 62 percent good, 26 percent fair and 2 percent poor. Livestock are in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Planted	36	12	38	19
Soybeans Planted	7	NA	7	3
Winter Wheat Headed	1	0	1	1
Winter Wheat Jointed	63	41	66	68

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	0	2	26	62	10
Winter Wheat 2005	1	4	23	57	15
Winter Wheat 2004	1	1	12	66	20

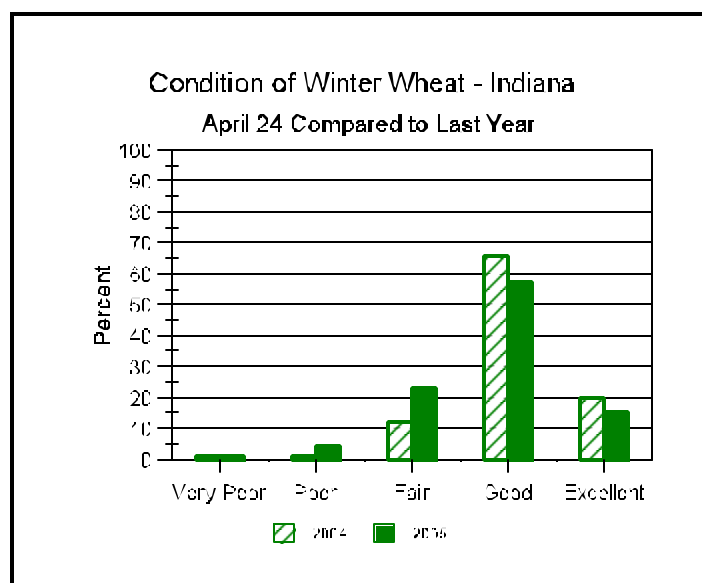
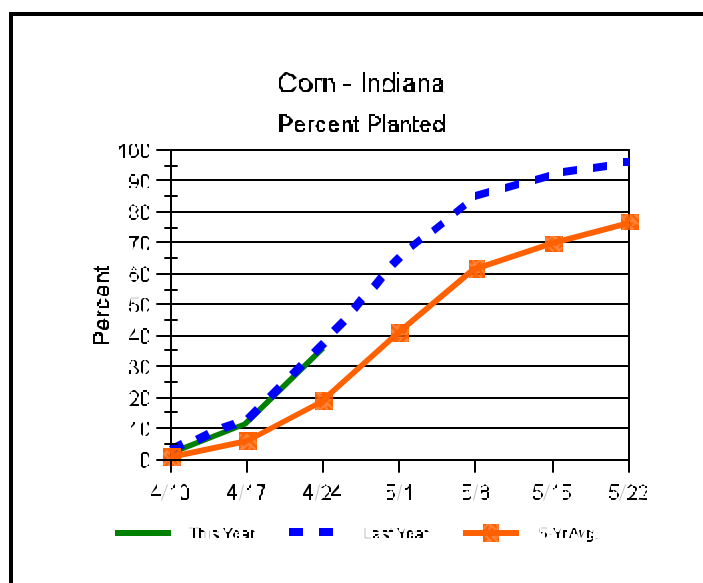
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	2	4
Short	5	15	14
Adequate	65	69	64
Surplus	28	14	18
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	2	4
Short	8	8	19
Adequate	79	81	68
Surplus	12	9	9
Days Suitable	4.2	4.9	4.1

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Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Fungicides Don't Always Do Well In 'Mixed' Company

Farmers can control Asian soybean rust and soybean aphid by spraying fungicides and insecticides from the same tank mix. However, if they mix fungicides and herbicides, rust or weed control is likely to go in the tank, Purdue University Extension specialists said.

Fungicides and insecticides are similar enough to be used simultaneously, said Greg Shaner, Extension plant pathologist. That cannot be said about fungicides and herbicides.

Differences in application timing and spraying methods make it difficult to combine fungicides and herbicides, Shaner said.

"There's two reasons why we're recommending producers not mix fungicides with herbicides," he said. "One is the timing. Unless rust would come in very, very early in the crop season, if you waited to apply herbicide until you needed rust control, it would be too late to get effective weed control. The other reason is that herbicide application -- especially glyphosate products -- is focused on spray drift reduction. Producers use low carrier volumes, spray nozzles that create larger droplets and low tank pressures when applying herbicides.

"If you set up your spraying system to do a good job with a herbicide, you're going to be doing a poor job with a fungicide. Conversely, if you set up to do a good job with a fungicide, you're probably going to have some problems with herbicide drift."

Fungicides are the only control options available for soybean rust, a devastating crop disease that was first detected in the continental United States this past November.

Soybean aphid is a tiny sap-sucking insect that has plagued Indiana producers off and on since 2000. Entomologists expect greater aphid numbers this year, after the insects were mysteriously absent in 2004.

While it is unknown when rust might arrive in Midwest soybean producing states like Indiana, many pathologists believe it could make its first appearance in June or July, when soybean plants are flowering.

That timeframe coincides with previous soybean aphid infestations, but is weeks behind the emergence of winter annual weeds, said Bill Johnson, Extension weed specialist.

"If we're in a total post-weed management system in Roundup Ready soybeans, our optimal herbicide application timing is somewhere around the V2 to V3 soybean growth stage to minimize yield losses due to weed competition," Johnson said.

The V2 -- vegetative stage 2 -- and V3 growth stages usually occur in late May.

Droplet size differences between fungicides and herbicides also make using the products together problematic, Johnson said.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week Ending Sunday April 24, 2005

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air				Precip.		Avg	April 1, 2005 thru				
	Temperature				Total		4 in	April 24, 2005				
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Soil	Precipitation	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	86	32	57	+4	1.29	4		2.05	-0.80	7	155	+78
Valparaiso_AP_I	83	32	56	+5	0.84	4		1.12	-2.06	7	152	+100
Wanatah	84	30	54	+5	0.75	4		1.13	-1.92	7	120	+82
Wheatfield	83	32	56	+6	1.27	5		2.09	-0.96	10	140	+99
Winamac	84	31	56	+5	1.13	4	56	1.58	-1.38	8	152	+97
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	84	31	55	+3	0.76	5		1.11	-1.98	8	133	+71
South_Bend	83	31	56	+6	0.90	4		1.01	-2.10	7	161	+116
Young_America	85	31	58	+7	1.63	4		2.02	-0.73	7	166	+113
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	82	31	55	+6	0.84	5	56	1.02	-1.88	7	138	+102
Fort_Wayne	82	31	56	+5	1.49	5		1.69	-1.03	9	144	+95
West Central(4)												
Greencastle	88	32	58	+4	1.84	3		2.90	-0.01	8	165	+76
Perrysville	84	32	59	+7	1.77	3	60	2.90	-0.19	7	184	+113
Spencer_Ag	81	31	58	+5	1.30	4		2.64	-0.52	10	160	+84
Terre_Haute_AFB	80	33	59	+5	1.40	3		2.72	-0.33	9	195	+104
W_Lafayette_6NW	85	33	58	+7	0.98	4	61	1.62	-1.31	8	182	+126
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	84	35	61	+8	3.09	4		3.68	+0.76	10	228	+145
Greenfield	81	31	57	+5	3.11	4		4.04	+0.86	9	160	+96
Indianapolis_AP	80	33	59	+5	3.01	4		4.00	+1.08	10	202	+119
Indianapolis_SE	81	32	58	+5	3.21	4		4.09	+1.16	8	177	+103
Tipton_Ag	81	30	56	+6	2.22	4	61	3.29	+0.18	10	131	+88
East Central(6)												
Farmland	81	31	57	+7	2.65	4	54	3.58	+0.73	9	133	+94
New_Castle	79	29	55	+5	2.71	4		3.44	+0.21	9	117	+74
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	80	35	62	+5	0.15	2		1.18	-1.99	9	246	+97
Freelandville	80	33	62	+7	0.68	2		2.02	-0.99	8	227	+123
Shoals	80	33	60	+6	0.74	3		1.99	-1.23	9	220	+117
Stendal	81	35	63	+7	0.62	2		2.44	-1.08	9	268	+145
Vincennes_5NE	83	34	62	+7	0.53	2	66	2.18	-0.83	8	245	+141
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	81	31	61	+6	0.52	2		2.83	-0.85	8	240	+133
Oolitic	78	31	59	+5	0.93	4	61	2.76	-0.40	11	192	+105
Tell_City	81	40	64	+8	0.10	2		1.90	-1.95	7	279	+147
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	82	33	58	+7	1.94	4		2.98	-0.03	10	184	+122
Milan_5NE	81	32	58	+6	1.95	4		3.25	+0.24	11	177	+115
Scottsburg	82	35	60	+5	1.52	4		3.21	-0.13	10	213	+109

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Fungicides Don't Always Do Well In "Mixed" Company (Continued)

"With glyphosate applications, we typically want a droplet size between 300 and 600 microns," Johnson said. "With an insecticide or a fungicide application, we typically want smaller droplets of around 200 microns. We'd also want higher carrier volumes of 20 gallons per acre or better, so we can fog those products into the soybean canopy and get good penetration."

By comparison, 300 microns is about as big around as a toothbrush bristle, while 200 microns is slightly larger in diameter than sewing thread, Johnson said.

Finding space in a spray tank for fungicide, insecticide and water should not be an issue, Shaner said.

"With fungicides you might be using from four to 10 fluid ounces per acre of product, and that's going to be diluted in water. So there's plenty of room for insecticide, too," he said.

Scouting soybean crops for rust and aphids can be done on the same walk through the field, said Shaner and John Obermeyer, Extension entomologist. But farmers should be careful not to apply fungicide or insecticide unless the applications are necessary, they said.

"Fungicide labels talk about applying the fungicide when no more than about three to five leaves out of a hundred are showing any sign of rust," Shaner said. "In practical terms this means you're probably looking

at 150 to 200 plants at the very least, and if you see just one or two rust pustules on two to five leaves out of a hundred that would be an economic threshold. But I would say if you see any rust -- if only on one leaf -- you still want to spray."

"In the few years we've have experience with soybean aphid, the later July to early August time period is when we're going to be most concerned about this insect pest," Obermeyer said. "We would advocate scouting before that time, to determine whether populations are building to economic thresholds."

When scouting, "turn over the undersides of leaves and you will see the aphids," Obermeyer said. "Once you get to 250 aphids per plant then you've reached a treatable level. If aphids are not present, we would not recommend the insecticide. It's not needed and, more than likely, it will do more harm than good because beneficial insects are going to be wiped out."

For more information on tank mixing fungicides, read "Fungicides, Herbicides and Soybean Rust: Do They Mix?" by Shaner, Johnson and Glenn Nice, Extension weed scientist. The publication can be downloaded online at <http://www.btny.purdue.edu/weedscience/2004/articles/herbfungmix04.pdf>.

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